

Nevada Department of Agriculture News Release

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WNV Surveillance Detects St. Louis Encephalitis In Churchill County

Reno – The Nevada Department of Agriculture's Animal Disease & Food Safety Laboratory has confirmed that a mosquito pool collected north of Fallon in Churchill County has tested positive for St. Louis Encephalitis. St. Louis Encephalitis is transmitted by mosquitoes, like the West Nile Virus, but rarely affects horses. St. Louis Encephalitis does affect birds and humans however.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Nevada has had three human cases of St. Louis Encephalitis since 1964.

"This detection is one more reason why people should take the following precautions against mosquito bites this summer," said Dr. Bradford Lee, State Health Officer:

- use mosquito repellent containing DEET
- wear long sleeve shirts, pants and socks
- be aware that mosquitoes are most active during dusk and dawn
- remove standing water from around your house
- check to make sure the screens on your windows and doors fit properly

Dr. David Thain, State Veterinarian, said, "St. Louis Encephalitis comes up every now and then." The last known detection of St. Louis Encephalitis in Nevada was in Fernley last year and it was not a human case.

For more information about St. Louis Encephalitis, please visit the CDC's website: www.cdc.gov

If you have health questions regarding St. Louis Encephalitis, please contact Martha Framsted, Public Information Officer, Nevada State Health Division: 775-684-4014.

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